

unbelievable number of clay pipe fragments. In the fall, veteran digger that I was, I was called up to help with the salvage work at what was believed to be the old Fort Orange site on the banks of the Hudson River, in the looming shadow of the new highway.

I remember Paul Huey well, clambering around the trenches in the muggy summer weather of upstate New York. We had fun and he taught us solid skills. A couple of years later, I had the good fortune to continue digging up old Albany. I was hired onto the crew at the Quakenbush House in downtown Albany, thanks in part to my work experience at the Schuyler mansion.

I milked my experience for all it was worth through college and beyond, building up a pretty good resume over time. It helped me earn my degree and steered me toward a future career. And now here I am, too many years later, a historian in the Montana SHPO office.

I was excited to read the Fort Orange article (*CRM*, Vol. 18, No. 7). As a kid I never really knew what all came of our excavation work. And of course I sent a copy of the article to my mom.

Thanks Paul, for the article and a great start. You may not even remember me now. But I remember you.

—Chere Jiusto

National Register Coordinator

Helena, MT

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STATE NEWS

The MAPIT Project

The Branch of Mapping and Information Technologies in the Heritage Preservation Services Program of the National Park Service has adapted a popular Geographic Information System (GIS) software package, ArcView, to

organize State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) statewide inventories. MAPIT (Mapping and Preservation Inventory Tool) is a GIS designed to fit any SHPO inventory by combining information about where historic properties are located with information about what these properties look like. MAPIT can display inventory information as a map, chart, table, and—through a linked database—generate standard survey forms, National Register nomination forms, and other forms in use by preservationists. This information can be distributed in hard copy, diskette, via the modem, or over the Internet.

MAPIT will help SHPOs look at their inventory in new ways. Inventory data can be displayed in the context of each SHPO program area such as Review and Compliance, Certified Local Governments, and Preservation Tax Incentives program, to name but a few. The inventory can be looked at in reference to federal, state, and local agency jurisdictions, correlated with census demographic, housing, land use, or elevation data. MAPIT presents the SHPO with a “one stop shopping” tool to view information on individual historic properties such as site plans, HABS/HAER drawings, photographs, narrative text, or any other type of digital information.

Through a point-and-click Windows environment, the SHPO can view their inventory in three ways. First, the “program view” looks at the inventory on a statewide scale to see broad patterns and relationships among map themes (e.g., roads, streams, land use, agency jurisdictions, etc.). The insights gained from looking at these maps can form a basis for preservation planning, policy review, and other strategic analyses. At the “project view” data are presented on a county-wide scale to see detailed patterns and relationships among map themes as one basis for project planning such as potential impact

of construction projects on historic properties, planning subgrantee surveys, defining National Register boundaries, or overlaying historic properties onto agency jurisdictions such as park units, forests, etc. At this scale, U.S. Census data complete with population and housing data can be used in analyzing the population trends and housing environments in areas surrounding historic properties.

Finally, the “property view” provides a “one stop shopping” for information about historic properties on the statewide inventory. The focus is on the individual historic property rather than on a group of properties. Consequently, information is displayed in an inventory format rather than a map. The program running behind the database allows the SHPO to ask more complex questions with faster replies, and to generate hard copy reports and forms.

MAPIT represents a National Park Service program initiative designed to bring together the power and functionality of GIS with the traditional query power of databases into a single unified system. One important feature of MAPIT is that current SHPO efforts in automating their inventory can continue and still take advantage of MAPIT. NPS technical assistance in GIS and inventory automation will revolve around MAPIT. Eventually MAPIT will be fitted to cultural resource databases within the NPS and linked to Global Positioning Systems as well.

For more details on MAPIT, contact Dr. John J. Knoerl, Acting Chief, Branch of Mapping and Information Technologies, 202-343-2239; email: john_knoerl@nps.gov, or Scott Oglesby, author of MAPIT, 202-343-1118; email: scott_oglesby@nps.gov.

—John J. Knoerl

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